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REPORT

OF THE

National Divorce Reform League

FOR THE

YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31,

1892.



THE National Divorce Reform League

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BOSTON:

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INTRODUCTORY NOTES.

1. The Annual Reports of the National Divorce Reform League give, in connection with a statement of its own work for the year, some account of the advances made in the study of Sociology and the Family in educational institutions and in various lines of practical work for the development of better Home life. Students may consult them to advantage.

2. The Reports prior to 1890 are nearly all out of print, and can be promised only to a few libraries. But those of later years will be cheerfully sent to all who may ask for them. The supply of our special publications of past years is exhausted, except the paper on "Perils to the Family," published in 1887, and a summary of the Divorce statistics of the United States and Europe.

3. A paper by the Corresponding Secretary on Sociology in the Higher Education of Women has been reprinted by the League from the *Atlantic Monthly* of November last, as our first special issue of 1893.

A second issue, ready about the time of the publication of this announcement, will be the report of a committee to the National Council of Congregational Churches, on the Family, made October 14, 1892, by Rev. Daniel Merriman, D. D., chairman. This valuable paper of a dozen pages and the briefer utterance of the pastoral letter of the Protestant Episcopal House of Bishops, will be sent to any who may apply for them.

4. The third edition of the Report of the Hon. Carroll D. Wright, Commissioner of Labor, on Marriage and Divorce in the United States and Europe has been printed. This is the same as the second edition and differs but little from the first. It can be had on application addressed to the Department of Labor, Washington, D. C.

5. Attention is invited to the needs of the educational part of our work. Many of our higher educational institutions still have no provision for the study of the Family, and others

desire to supplement their own work with one or more lectures from our Secretary, who has a list of applications for lectures in these waiting his acceptance as soon as the means can be supplied, which will relieve him of some of the routine duties of the office work, and make it safe to incur the expense. Our special publications can be increased to great advantage as soon as provision can be made for publication. The League is the only society of the kind in the country, and its broad aims, careful work and substantial successes have won the confidence of the best minds as deserving generous support so long as the American Home is in need of protection and improvement.

A form of bequest is printed on the third page of the cover of the Report. Special gifts for a permanent fund are also invited.

6. We gratefully acknowledge the continued generosity of our annual contributors, many of whom have greatly added to the value of their gifts by sending them early in the year and without personal solicitation, thus saving the time of the Secretary and the expense of collection.

The early enclosure of your contribution for the present year, or of some statement regarding the sum you hope to send at some probable time later, will confer a great favor.

7. Churches and individuals who cannot do so this year are respectfully asked to provide a place for the interests of Family and the Home in their charities in the early future. Experience in philanthropic work for social improvement has shown that nothing does more to relieve the burdens of all charitable societies than the improvement made in the Home.

8. Special attention is called to the privilege of ASSOCIATE ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP, which is freely extended to all proper persons, both ladies and gentlemen, on payment of *five dollars* for the year, to be renewed at the pleasure of the subscriber. Such members are for the time members in full, entitled to vote at our meetings and to receive all our publications. *If you are not a larger contributor, will you not send your request for associate membership and the fee to the Treasurer at once, and thus give substantial aid to this most important work?*

9. The Treasurer, WILLIAM G. BENEDICT, 610 ATLANTIC

AVENUE, BOSTON, MASS., will gratefully acknowledge all contributions.

10. All correspondence relating to the general work of the League and special inquiries for lectures, literature and information should be addressed to the Corresponding Secretary, REV. SAMUEL W. DIKE, LL. D., AUBURNDALE, MASS.

Contributions may be sent to him, or to the Treasurer as directed above.

RECORD OF ANNUAL MEETING.

THE annual meeting was held in the office of Judge Bennett, No. 10 Tremont St., Boston, Jan. 25th, 1893, at 2.30 P. M. In the absence of the President and the Recording Secretary, Hon. Hamilton A. Hill presided, and Rev. Wm. H. Cobb, D.D., was chosen Recording Secretary *pro tem*. Prayer was offered by Rev. Wm. H. Cobb, D. D. The record of the last annual meeting was read and approved.

The following gentlemen were elected to membership in the Society :

Rev. E. Winchester Donald, D. D., of Boston.

Robert C. Ogden, Esq., of Philadelphia.

Hon. C. Stuart Patterson, of Philadelphia.

Rev. Daniel Merriman, D. D., of Worcester.

Messrs. C. C. Burr and Daniel Merriman were appointed a committee to nominate officers for the ensuing year. They reported the following, who were unanimously elected :

President, Rev. Alvah Hovey, D. D., LL. D.

Vice-Presidents, Hon. Nathaniel Shipman, LL. D.; Pres. Seth Low, LL. D.

Corresponding Secretary, Rev. S. W. Dike, LL. D.

Recording Secretary, Rev. C. H. Spalding.

Treasurer, William G. Benedict, Esq.

Executive Committee, Hon. Edmund H. Bennett, LL. D.; Pres. M. H. Buckham, D. D.; George C. Shattuck, M. D.; Prof. S. E. Baldwin, LL. D.; Prof. Francis G. Peabody, D. D.; Prof. W. E. Huntington, Ph. D.; Prof. George Harris, D. D.; Rev. James DeNormandie; Prof. G. D. B. Pepper, D. D., LL. D.; Hon. Hamilton A. Hill; Rev. S. W. Dike, LL. D.

The Treasurer, Wm. G. Benedict, presented his annual report, which was accepted and referred to C. C. Burr, as Auditor.

The report of the Corresponding Secretary, Dr. S. W. Dike, was presented and accepted, but on account of the pressure of

time, a portion only was read, and the full report was referred for publication (at the suggestion of Dr. Dike) to a committee consisting of the Chairman, the Treasurer, and the Corresponding Secretary. The Chairman made verbal statements as to the gratifying progress of the work of the League, and its connection with other related reforms. The Auditor reported the Treasurer's accounts correct and properly vouched. The report was accepted. Adjourned.

WM. H. COBB, *Recording Secretary, pro tem.*

REPORT

OF THE CORRESPONDING SECRETARY.

THE constitution of the National Divorce Reform League says that "its object shall be to promote an improvement in public sentiment and legislation in the institution of the Family, especially as affected by existing evils relating to Marriage and Divorce." Prof. James Bryce, in some correspondence upon this subject of the Family, wrote that "one might almost call the problem the fundamental and permanent problem of human life and society." Every one who has given the matter careful study must see that this puts the case truthfully, as well as in compact and comprehensive form. The proper formation and the preservation to their natural end, the vigorous development and the generous contributions of their domestic influence to society of the largest number of families, is the ideal of social well-being, so far as it depends upon the Home. No other institution so nearly performs in society the part that tissue plays in the human body. "The Family," says Prof. H. B. Adams, of Johns Hopkins, "perpetually reproduces the ethical history of man, and continually reconstructs the constitution of society." From the very nature of the case, therefore, the Family must afford, as Prof. Bryce has put it, "the fundamental and permanent problem of human life and society."

I have called attention to this statement because its acceptance carries two important principles with it, which those who are interested in the improvement of this institution should constantly keep in mind. The first is that the nature of the problem requires the utmost care that all efforts at its solution be comprehensive and scientific. The treatment of social tissue is not less difficult and intricate than that of tissue in the lower realms of biology. Intricacy and remote forces mark the problem. Every relation and resource of Religion, Education, Law and Economics have more or less to do with the Family

and the Home, and these in turn react upon Church, School, State and Industry. The second is that work for such an institution demands time. It cannot be done in a hurry. General enthusiasm, legislation carried at the demand of popular clamor, accomplish but a small part of the work to be done.

While the National Divorce Reform League may safely challenge the comparison of concrete results, in the dozen years of its existence, with almost any other reformatory movement, and most confidently when the limitations under which its work has been done are taken into the account, this is not its best claim to the favor of the public. It has itself done much; but it does not exist so much to do things itself as to get those who should—and especially the right persons and institutions—to do them. It helps discover conditions as they are; it incites study; it raises the inquiry as to the needed action; and when it may, it brings the need and the supply together. It keeps in touch, so far as it can, with the great sources of social improvement, and tries to be a medium of communication to others of whatever is useful in the work of improving our domestic life. The work goes on steadily. The tangible results of it vary from year to year. But every one, who will compare the condition of things a dozen years ago with that of to-day, cannot fail to see we have reason for great encouragement. This appears in the knowledge of the facts through official investigation; in the turn in the tide of loose legislation; in the addition of many wholesome statutes to the marriage and divorce laws of several States; in the inauguration of a promising movement of the States to secure more uniform legislation; in the advance and, practically, the very origination of the study of the Family and Sociology in our higher educational institutions; and, lastly, in the growing interest of the Christian Church and Society in the better use of the Home for the work of social improvement. No wise social reform in these times can work by itself or claim that it has been the sole means of what has been accomplished. Society is complex. Social forces are many and intricate, and their movements depend on far-reaching and often remote conditions. We try to do our part of the great task. Let us

notice the more important features of the work and the problem as these appeared in the year 1892.

INVESTIGATION.

The publication of the Report of our government on Marriage and Divorce in this country and Europe, which was received with much interest by European as well as American publicists, has laid the foundation for further investigation. A third edition of the Report was printed last summer, and can be obtained without cost by writing to the Commissioner of Labor, at Washington. The International Statistical Society will hold its first meeting in America at Chicago in September, at which a large number of the most eminent statisticians of Europe will be present. At this meeting, it is desired that your secretary present a paper on the condition and needs of statistics relating to Marriage and Divorce. This opportunity for the exchange of information and opinion ought to do something towards the improvement of our present fragmentary and imperfect official provision for the collection and publication of those statistics which must furnish the basis for the best knowledge of this most important matter. It may also prepare the way for the adoption of more uniform methods in official statistics which will enable us to make valuable interstate and international comparisons, as the cosmopolitan extent of the movement of the divorce rate implies should be done.

I am informed, from the Census Office, that the tabulation of the conjugal condition of the population of the United States, according to State or Territory of birth, will be begun within a few months. This, with the tables of the Report on Marriage and Divorce, will supply data for a closer estimate of the extent of migration for Divorce than was possible at the time that Report was made. That Report, it will be remembered, showed that 80.1 per cent. of all divorces in the United States for twenty years, in the case of those married in this country, and whose place of marriage was known, had been granted in the State or Territory where the marriage also had taken place. Maryland now provides for the return of statistics of Divorce to the State Registrar.

UNIFORM LEGISLATION.

The movement for uniform legislation through the co-operation of the States and of Congress has made good progress the past year, notwithstanding the fact that it is in its earliest stages and in part dependent upon the action of legislatures that meet only biennially. Last year few legislatures were in session. But Mississippi and Georgia created commissions on uniform legislation, making eight States in all now having commissions: Delaware, Georgia, Massachusetts, Michigan, Mississippi, New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania. Appeals have been made by the American Bar Association, the National Divorce Reform League, and, I believe, by the National Board of Trade, to the governors and legislators of States holding sessions this winter, to advance the work. Senator Platt, of Connecticut, last winter introduced a bill into Congress to provide a commission for the District of Columbia, and we hope for its passage. This measure has an importance beyond that of securing a representation of the District. For it is hoped that its provisions will enable the States to do their common work more efficiently. It is too early to predict results, but the governors of California, Connecticut, Kentucky and North Carolina have already officially commended the creation of commissions, and in one, if not in all these States, bills have been introduced for the purpose.

The friends of this movement in the various States will do the cause great service if they will personally interest themselves in it. They can do more than any outside parties, however helpful these may be.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT.

The Judiciary Committee of the House of Representatives, by a decided majority, made an adverse report on a proposed amendment of the Constitution of the United States, giving Congress power to establish uniform laws on Marriage and Divorce. This amendment was sought by parties who were not fully informed regarding the problem. Intelligent public opinion is now well-nigh unanimous in approval of our opinion

that every effort should first be made to help the plan of State commissions do all it can, and accepts the conclusion that even should constitutional amendment become ultimately necessary, the work of the commissions will most surely clear the ground and prepare the way for it. To propose constitutional amendment just now is useless and harmful to the reform. But many people will urge it with renewed earnestness if the work of the State commissions, after a fair trial, should fail to accomplish what is practicable in uniformity, and the gains should seem to make it worth the while to overcome all the difficulties that would be met.

THE WORK OF THE COMMISSIONS ON UNIFORMITY.

The commissioners on uniform legislation held their first meeting in Saratoga on the 24th day of August. Their work includes several subjects outside Marriage and Divorce, such as deeds and other written instruments, wills, notes, etc. In their first report, the commissioners speak of the plan in this language: "It is probably not too much to say that this is the most important juristic work undertaken in the United States since the adoption of the Federal constitution. . . . A gratifying degree of unanimity was found among the several State commissioners, and more progress was made than was hoped for, although the conference deemed it wise to proceed very slowly, and take up, as a general rule, only the simplest matters first."

On the subject of Marriage and Divorce, I again quote the report of the commissioners. They say: "There is probably no question on which there is greater general necessity to have uniformity of law than this, but yet it is a question upon which the different sections of the country vary in sentiment and opinion as they vary in no other; and the questions to be considered are so complex that the conference felt it should proceed very cautiously in this particular, especially until a fuller representation was present from all the States and Territories. . . . A more difficult question still was that of Divorce. This first conference did not undertake to make any recommendation as to what causes the several States should deem sufficient to make a

legal dissolution of marriage; but the abuses of our present divorce system, as it works throughout the country, are so great and so well known that it seemed possible at least to make some simple recommendations regulating procedure in divorce cases, which should do away with some of the worst abuses.”

RECOMMENDATION OF THE COMMISSIONS.

At Saratoga, and in New York, at the second meeting, the following recommendations were made:

MARRIAGE.

“*Resolved*, That it be recommended to the State Legislatures that legislation be adopted requiring some ceremony or formality, or written evidence, signed by the parties, and attested by one or more witnesses, in all marriages; provided, however, that in all States where the so-called common law marriage, or marriage without ceremony, is now recognized as valid, no such marriage hereafter contracted shall be valid unless evidenced by a writing, signed in duplicate by the parties, and attested by at least two witnesses.

“*Resolved*, That we recommend to the several Legislatures further to provide that it shall be the duty of the magistrate or clergyman solemnizing the marriage to file and record the certificate of such marriage in the appropriate public office.

“*Resolved*, That in cases of common law marriages, so-called, evidenced in writing, as above provided, it shall be the duty of the parties to such marriage to file, or cause to be filed, such written evidence of their marriage, in an appropriate public office, within ninety days after such marriage shall have taken place, and that a failure to do so shall be a misdemeanor.

“*Resolved*, That it be further recommended to the Legislatures that in case the certificate last mentioned be not filed as aforesaid, or if no subsequent ratification by both parties, evidenced as aforesaid by like writing, be filed, then neither party shall have any right or interest in the property of the other.

“*Resolved*, That we recommend to all the States that stringent provision be made for the immediate record of all marriages,

whether solemnized by a clergyman or magistrate, or otherwise entered into, and that said provisions be made sufficiently stringent to secure such record and the full identification of the parties.'

The following resolution, passed at the meeting of the conference held at Saratoga, was re-adopted, viz. :

"That the age of consent to marriage should be raised to eighteen in the male and sixteen in the female."

DIVORCE.

"*Resolved*, That it is the sense of this Conference that no judgment or decree of divorce should be granted unless the defendant be domiciled within the State in which the action is brought, or shall have been domiciled therein at the time the cause of action arose, or unless the defendant shall have been personally served with process within said State, or shall have voluntarily appeared in such action or proceeding.

"Where the defendant shall not be domiciled in the State in which such action is brought, or shall not have been domiciled therein at the time the cause of action arose, the plaintiff must prove either that the parties have lived together in that State as husband and wife, or that the plaintiff has in good faith resided in said State for at least one year next preceding the commencement of the proceeding.

"*Resolved*, That it is the sense of this Conference that in all libels for divorce for adultery with some person named therein, such person shall be made a co-respondent, and personal service of the libel shall be made upon such person, unless it appear to the Court that such service was impracticable.

"*Resolved*, That where a marriage is dissolved, both parties to the action shall be at liberty to marry again."

The last recommendation will probably meet with strong objection on the part of many of the friends of divorce reform. For while the purpose to contract a new marriage is not an immediate motive among so large a proportion of the parties seeking divorce as many suppose it to be,—Connecticut showing only one-third as many divorced persons married in two years as there were persons divorced,—yet it does affect many, and

the laws of a few States, placing restrictions on re-marriage, have clearly tended to reduce improper divorce. In 1889, nineteen States and Territories had various restrictions upon re-marriage after divorce. Some of these were left to the courts to determine. Others fixed a period. Massachusetts makes all divorces *nisi* for six months, and three make it cover the time (six months) allowed for commencement of proceedings in error or by appeal, and if appeals are once commenced, while they are pending. Louisiana, at least, has the provision that is more frequently found in European law than in the United States, to the effect that the wife cannot remarry until ten months after the dissolution of a marriage from any cause whatever. If I may be allowed to express the opinion, it would seem that the sense of propriety in marriage, and a wholesome restraint upon those who use the courts for scandalous ends, would justify the restriction of the remarriage of the divorced for at least one year. This action of the commissioners, however, may be reconsidered at another meeting, when, as they intimate, they will take up some of the more difficult problems of the law of Marriage and Divorce. The commissioners invite criticisms and suggestions.

Of course, it will be seen, as intimated in a former report of the League, that while it is eminently desirable to have as many States as possible establish commissions, the value of the work will be great if only a part of them do so. For the adoption of the recommendations by a few States—should not all create commissions, as it is hoped they will—will do much good, and others still may enact the recommendations made by the commissions that are created.

LEGISLATION IN 1892.

From the State Library Bulletin of New York, prepared by Mr. W. B. Shaw, we learn that Georgia, which had no statutory provision on the subject, now requires a *bona fide* residence of twelve months in the State and six months in the county, before filing an application for a divorce. A law also was passed regulating fees in divorce suits.

A bill has been introduced into the legislature of Illinois providing stringent regulations of marriage licenses regarding

intelligence, physical and mental soundness, and ability to support a wife. This proposal is a novelty in American legislation, though not in European, where its utility is somewhat in doubt, as serious evils have sometimes attended its practical operation.

A vigorous effort is being made to raise the period of residence required before application for divorce can be made in South Dakota, from six months to a year, and otherwise amend the laws which have lately given that new State an unpleasant notoriety. Public opinion will soon force the reform, should it now fail. But in most of the States legislation will rest until the work of the commissions has advanced farther, and then there will be much to be done. For uniformity is a relief from only a small part of the evils of our system as it now exists.

There is a marked tendency in legislation to protect society against licentious practices. No less than twenty statutes with this aim were enacted in 1891.

EDUCATIONAL WORK.

The history of legislation, whether this is carried on by the States independently or in co-operation for the sake of greater uniformity, shows that back of law we need, above all things, an intelligent direction and instruction of public opinion, for which we must rely mainly upon the church, the press and our institutions of learning. The specific problems that confront us in reference to Marriage, Divorce, Domestic Purity and a vigorous Home life, owe their present forms, in very great degree, to the social movements and defects of a generation, and, indeed, of the centuries, and must be treated accordingly. Reform, therefore, must take in the whole situation. It is said that Germany owes much of her present political and military power to her system of education, extending far back in time and reaching from the university to the elementary school. So the power of our own country to grapple with our future social problems must be developed and trained through our educational institutions.

IN UNIVERSITIES, COLLEGES AND SEMINARIES.

The interest in the study of the problems of the Family and of Sociology is growing rapidly. Perhaps in no one direction

have the changes of the last dozen years in our higher educational institutions been more marked than in the creation and development of studies in this class of subjects. Reference has been made in our recent reports to the work done at several of our leading universities, colleges and theological seminaries by their various professors and instructors. This now continues from year to year, with gradual enlargement, and need not be recounted here. But other institutions have either begun the work or greatly enlarged it. This class of studies in the University of Pennsylvania has been enlarged in the past year or two, and this is also true of Columbia and Cornell. Yale Divinity School and the Chicago Theological Seminary now join Andover, Hartford, the Harvard Divinity School, and others, in having Professors of Sociology or Social Science who give special attention to the Family. Williams College now has lectures two and three hours a week in a required course for all seniors in two terms of the year. It also has a short course of lectures relating to the hygiene of the Home. Bowdoin College now offers to seniors an elective in Sociology and Political Science running through the year. "The second term is given to the history of social institutions, including prehistoric sociology and anthropology; and the third term to contemporary and applied sociology." The course in Ethics in this institution, under President Hyde, I believe gives special attention to the duties of Sex and the Home. Every student at Andover Theological Seminary now has the opportunity of a thorough course on the Family under Prof. Tucker. The last examination showed that admirable work had been done.

The Rev. W. F. Blackman, of Ithaca, N. Y., has published an article in *Christian Thought* (August, 1892) giving the results of his correspondence with professors in theological seminaries upon the attitude of these institutions toward the study of the Social Sciences and Sociology. There seems to be an almost universal sense of the importance of these branches, and a general willingness to provide for their study. But some have grave fears that this will crowd the distinctively theological work that is continually calling for more attention. It seems to me that there must soon be a better understanding between the theological seminaries, and perhaps law schools also, on the one

hand, and the colleges and universities on the other, concerning their respective shares in the common work in these sciences, so that the professional school may confidently build on the foundations previously laid, and avoid needless duplications of work. This will hasten the improvement, now in progress, of the instruction in the theological seminaries so that it will be more truly scientific from the sociological point of view, and at the same time be more strictly in the line of the Christian applications of Sociology, Ethics and Economics.

The new University of Chicago has recently made announcements which promise a good deal of work in Sociology. Among the many courses it offers in this department is one on "The Family Institution." The introduction to these announcements contains a statement worth repeating for its bearing on what was said above and for its popular need. It says: "Prevalent misconceptions make it necessary to advise students that Sociology is neither the sum of modern experiments in beneficence, nor the formulation of benevolent sentiments, nor a dogmatic short-cut to the solution of problems which baffle political economy and statesmanship." Lest the reader protest that this is a mere statement of what Sociology is not, I will add that this authority, after pointing out the fact that Sociology is dependent upon the special social sciences for its data, says: "In general, Sociology is the science of the inter-relations, of proportion and dependence, between the various forms of social activity with which the special social sciences are immediately concerned." Perhaps I may say that, in other words, Sociology is the science that treats of the forces, organization, institutions and functions of Human Society taken as a whole, whereas Politics, Economics, Ethics and the like take some single aspect as their peculiar field.

THE COLLEGES FOR WOMEN.

Our last two Reports have treated with some care of the need of courses of study in Sociology for women as well as men, and especially in those subjects that are connected with the Home, and the regret was expressed that little, if anything, had then been done in most of the colleges for women on these themes of the

deepest concern to them. The past year marks a hopeful advance. The subject was urged on the attention of the students at Vassar in an address before the Young Woman's Christian Association and in a lecture to the senior class in March. It was also brought forward in some lectures given at Wellesley later, and still more distinctly in a paper published in the *Atlantic Monthly* for November on "Sociology in the Higher Education of Women." The position taken in this paper, now reprinted by the League, has evidently been widely considered. In brief, it was there held that the demands of a complete development of all the powers of woman ; a true education for her future life ; the rich educational material and opportunities of the home and its immediate social activities, and especially the growing need of educated women as leaders in the work of the improvement of the domestic life of our people, now require an advance in the Higher Education of Women by the introduction of the study of Sociology and subjects that gather about the Family. These colleges having necessarily, in their earlier work, concentrated effort on the general training of Woman as an Individual, the time has now come for the due recognition of her work as Woman, either in college or post-graduate work, if not in both.

This, in part, is simply a movement of the woman's college to keep up with the development of sociological study in the universities and those other institutions whose age and equipment have enabled them to take the lead in the enlargement of their courses of study. I have received several proofs of the most favorable opinion of the suggestion. None have been more hearty than those which have come from college-bred women themselves. An editorial, in the Boston *Transcript* of Dec. 9, 1882, speaks for these, apparently, and says of the *Atlantic* article that it is "a most important contribution to the literature of the question—and one doubly important because of its timeliness." The editorial maintains that the education of women "has reached the point at which sociological instruction, of the kind in question, can be most profitably introduced," and that "it remains for them (the colleges for women) to add to their system not only instruction in sociology in its more public phases, but to give the dignity of scientific

treatment to those departments of domestic life which have been administered by rule of thumb—when they could be said to be administered by rule at all—and, most important and difficult of all, to secure to the girls in their charge a symmetrical development of their own natures.” Some of those best informed express the opinion that probably the managers of the colleges for women are ready to take up this work as soon as a place for it can be made in the courses of study, the endowment of chairs of sociology can be secured, and competent persons to take them can be found. One intelligent trustee tells me that she thinks the two latter are the more difficult obstacles to overcome. I especially appreciate the last difficulty. For, with few exceptions, we now draw our teachers of Sociology from those who have made this science only an incidental study, or who have not pursued it in the most scientific ways. Experts say that, as yet, we have very few true sociologists available for teachers.

Besides the work done at Vassar last year, noted above, four lectures were given at Wellesley, and I am to give four at Smith and two more at Vassar soon. Mrs. Richards has been doing admirable work for some years in Domestic Science at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and Miss Talbot, who has taught Domestic Science at Wellesley, is now a member of the faculty of Social Science in Chicago University. The work of President Hyde, at Bowdoin, like that already noted at Williams, is a good illustration of what may be done to instruct young men in their duties as related to the Home. It may be that other colleges have advanced the past year in this direction, but the necessary information from them has not reached me.

LECTURES AND PUBLICATIONS.

My own lectures for the year included one lecture each at Johns Hopkins and Amherst; two at Vassar and the Protestant Episcopal Divinity School at Cambridge; and four at Wellesley. Several requests for lectures from institutions in the West and elsewhere have been put over until this year. A great deal more of most useful work of this sort would be done did the state of our treasury allow arrangements to be made in advance,

and for that clerical aid which would relieve the Secretary from the loss of strength and time in routine duties that could be as well done by another as by himself.

Besides the article in the *Atlantic* of November, the Secretary has prepared one on our American Problem of the Family, for British readers, which will appear in an early number of the *Contemporary Review*. The usual number of lesser contributions have been made by him to various periodicals. Increasing calls for our Annual Reports and other papers come from the libraries of our educational institutions, and I find that these are in frequent use. It is unfortunate that our earlier Reports are out of print, and others nearly so.

THE CHURCH AND THE FAMILY.

From time to time your Secretary has invited members of the National and State Christian assemblies to induce these bodies to direct their constituencies to the Family and its needs. The past year two of these have given the subject noteworthy attention. The Pastoral Letter of the House of Bishops of the Protestant Episcopal Church at the last General Convention contained an admirable section on the Christian Family, which we have reprinted for our own use. An excellent report on the Family, of considerable length, was made about the same time to the triennial National Council of the Congregational Churches, by the Rev. Daniel Merriman, D.D., of Worcester, as chairman of a special committee, which this body keeps in existence on this subject. This will be reprinted by the League, and is commended for its rich and varied suggestiveness. A similar committee has been appointed by the General Association of the Congregational Churches of Massachusetts. It is respectfully suggested that the National and other ecclesiastical assemblies of every Christian faith may do a great deal of good, and invigorate their own church work by similar action, or such other as will best conform to their own peculiar systems of ecclesiastical organization. For nothing can do more to conserve the Family and fortify the Home against the evils of unwise marriage, divorce and the vices that corrupt domestic life, than the wholesome instructions of the Church, and her development of the proper activities of the Home life.

The report to the National Council concluded with the following recommendation, which was adopted by the Council. It is introduced here partly for the information of our friends in other Christian bodies, who may desire to do similar work.

“I. That a committee of five be appointed by this Council, whose duty shall be,

“1. To consider the dangers, needs, functions, and opportunities of the Family in modern life, and what can be done to guard, develop, and strengthen it, especially noting the results of the various agencies—legal and social—to this end.

“2. To co-operate with similar committees which may be appointed in other national bodies for the same objects ; and

“3. That this committee begin its work directly after its appointment ; that it hold frequent meetings during the coming three years ; that from time to time it make such reports and recommendations to the churches as may be deemed best, and that it report at the next Triennial Council.

“II. That the Council advise that similar committees, with similar duties, be appointed in our State bodies, as now in Massachusetts, and also in our various local conferences and associations.”

PRACTICAL WORK REGARDING THE HOME.

The year has been noteworthy for a most healthy growth of interest in direct work for the Home itself. Our annual Reports have insisted that one of the best ways to protect and serve the Home is to encourage it to attend carefully to its own peculiar duties. The principle of self-help as a means of reform is as sound here as anywhere. Indeed, in no other social institution can it be applied with greater hope of usefulness. The nature of the Family, the peculiarity of its interests and the power of its forces over life, make it peculiarly applicable to the Home. It may be said that practical philanthropy almost everywhere is finding that the closer it can get to the Home, and the more of its ideas it can incorporate in domestic life, the more it can lead the Home to self-respecting self-help, the surer and more powerful its effect.

WORK FOR THE HOME IN THE SOUTH.

A specific illustration of this may be given from a feature of the work of Tougaloo University, Tougaloo, Mississippi, an institution especially devoted to the education of the negroes. Each girl has daily instruction for a year in cooking and sewing. Four at a time for a month actually keep house, having their own allowance, account-book, and doing their own buying, planning, cooking, receiving company, and, in short, going through the entire round of housekeeping under suitable direction, supplemented by instruction and practice in manners, morals, etc. "Hardly a girl," the head of the institution writes, "who has gone out from us and married has failed to have a home that is a model to all around."

I believe the drift of the education of this part of the population of the South is in this direction. Gen. Armstrong once said to me: "At Hampton we teach civilization." Many are aware of the fact that work directly bearing on the Home is growing in use in all our large cities as one of the best ways to meet the needs of the poorer classes. The Young Woman's Christian Association, Girls' Clubs, and charities of every sort, aim more and more to improve the Home. While Rescue Work, as it is called, is dealing hopefully with the individuals who are the product, in large measure, of bad homes, and must do so, this other side of philanthropy is trying to cleanse the fountain itself. Social reform is learning to touch every social force in due proportion in order to relieve any one distress. Perhaps it should be mentioned that some young ladies' boarding-schools now offer courses of study in cooking. Divorce certainly is less likely to occur in well-managed homes supplying well-cooked food.

THE HOME DEPARTMENT OF THE SUNDAY SCHOOL.

The development in recent years of this institution for getting those who do not attend the public services of the Sunday school to do some of its work in their homes is making rapid progress. The last report from Connecticut, where it has recently grown fast, estimates 130 or 140 Home Departments

with a membership of several thousands in that State alone. It has widely been introduced in Europe by W. A. Duncan, Ph. D., the originator of the Home Classes, which preceded the Home Department, and a leading worker in this special field of Sunday school work, and received with great favor. A number of the denominational Sunday school societies, I believe, now use it and supply the simple material necessary for its operation. The significance of this movement for us lies in the impulse it has given to the idea that where the Church fails for any reason to bring people within the walls of her sanctuaries she may still secure the study of the Bible and induce religious activity in the Home, and so quicken the Family to a sense of what can and ought to be done within its own limits and by its own divinely appointed ministers. But there may be a little danger, through the concentration of the attention of professional Sunday school men on the school and its growth in numbers, and the disposition of some pastors to make use only of ready-made methods, that the larger and deeper religious possibilities of the Home may be neglected. The larger needs of the Home that lie beyond the province of the Sunday school need attention. The best minds in our Churches should be enlisted in original study of this neglected problem of the Church and its undeveloped work through the Home. What could be more useful than the offer of a generous prize for the best essay upon this subject for the purpose of bringing out the hidden resources of the Home? Yet, after all, perhaps the best things here, as in other matters, cannot be had for money. They come rather as the inspiration of reverent students and earnest men and women engaged in practical work.

The treasurer's report shows that we received in 1892, from all sources, \$2,702.01, and that we have \$6.58 in the treasury. But in order to escape a debt some urgent calls for work during the early autumn were put aside.

PROF. DWIGHT AND BISHOP BROOKS.

We have lost from our Executive Committee, by death, Prof. Theodore W. Dwight, LL. D. Though he was unable to be at our meetings, he was frequently consulted, and was one

of our most valuable counsellors. My personal obligations to him in the field of our work began before the organization of the League, in correspondence growing out of his elaborate introduction to the earliest American edition of Sir Henry S. Maine's Ancient Law. His great learning, large experience and sound judgment, his genial ways, and a wonderful fund of patience made him an invaluable member of our Committee.

Bishop Brooks, though only last year elected to our membership, in the place of his predecessor and our former President, Bishop Paddock, had long been a hearty friend and contributor to our work.

Respectfully submitted,

SAMUEL W. DIKE,

Corresponding Secretary.

TREASURER'S REPORT.

WILLIAM G. BENEDICT, *Treasurer.*

DR.	In account with the National Divorce Reform League.	CR.	
Dec. 31, 1892.		Dec. 31, 1892.	
To receipts from contributions		By payments at various times	
for 1892	\$2,702.01	for Salary	\$2,000.00
		Travelling Expenses	309.90
		Printing	131.25
		Postage	109.09
		Advertising, Telegram, Ex- press, etc.	19.66
		Stationery	32.35
		Rent	50.00
		Balance due of Salary of 1891,	43.18
		Balance	6.58
			<u>\$2,702.01</u>
Dec. 31, 1892.			
To Balance	6.58		

Jan.	5	Rev. W. H. Moore, Hartford, Conn.	\$ 5.00
	12	Park Church, Norwich, Conn.	25.00
	12	Pres. E. M. Gallaudet, LL. D., Washington	5.00
	19	Col. J. L. Greene, Hartford, Conn.	25.00
	20	Pres. Seth Low, LL. D., New York	50.00
	21	State Street Church, Portland, Me.	25.00
	22	Rev. S. P. Leeds, D. D., Hanover, N. H.	5.00
	22	Prof. Henry E. Parker, D. D., Hanover, N. H.	5.00
	23	Mrs. Theodore D. Woolsey, New Haven, Conn.	50.00
		Received in January	<u>\$195.00</u>
Feb.	1	Rt. Rev. H. A. Neely, D.D., Portland, Me.	\$ 5.00
	1	James C. Braman, Auburndale, Mass.	10.00
	4	Hon. Hamilton Andrews Hill, Boston	10.00
	4	W. O. Grover, Boston	50.00
	4	Rev. T. W. Thompson, Worcester	5.00
	6	Rev. C. T. Bradlee, D. D., Boston	5.00
	8	Hon. N. Shipman, LL. D., Hartford, Conn.	25.00
	8	Hon. R. D. Benedict, Brooklyn	10.00
	9	Rev. D. Stuart Dodge, New York	10.00
	9	Mrs. R. H. Dana, Cambridge	10.00
	10	W. G. Collins, New York	5.00
	10	J. N. Denison, Boston	25.00
	11	Hon. W. E. Dodge, New York	100.00
	11	Dr. Geo. C. Shattuck, Boston	25.00
	11	Alfred T. White, Brooklyn	10.00

11	Prof. W. E. Huntington, Ph. D., Newton Centre	5.00
12	Mrs. Geo. H. Corliss, Providence, R. I. . . .	10.00
12	Rev. Arthur Laurence, Stockbridge	25.00
15	St. Bartholomew's Church, New York	100.00
15	Church of the Incarnation, New York	50.00
13	Dr. Chas. A. Peabody, Worcester	5.00
16	Stuart Wood, Philadelphia	25.00
16	Rev. E. W. Smith, Fall River	5.00
17	George Burnham, Philadelphia	25.00
17	W. P. Henzey, Philadelphia	20.00
17	Eugene Delano, Philadelphia	10.00
17	W. S. Price, Philadelphia	5.00
17	North Broad St. Pres. Church, Philadelphia . .	14.51
21	Rev. A. B. Hunter, Raleigh, N. C. . . .	5.00
24	St. John's Church, Stamford, Conn. . . .	10.00
27	Robert C. Ogden, Philadelphia	25.00
27	Ephraim Whitman, Worcester	25.00

Received in February \$669.51

Mar.	3	Wm. G. Benedict, Boston	\$ 25.00
	5	Christ Church, Fitchburg	10.00
	7	J. Howard Nichols, Newton	5.00
	10	Grace Church, Providence	25.00
	11	Pres. W. DeWitt Hyde, D.D., Brunswick, Me. .	5.00
	11	Hon. J. M. Allen, Hartford, Conn.	25.00
	11	Prof. L. O. Barstow, D. D., New Haven, Conn.	10.00
	14	Prof. C. C. Bragdon, Auburndale	10.00
	14	Y. W. C. A., Vassar College (for expenses) .	15.00
	15	Chas. King, Washington	5.00
	15	Prof. Wm. M. Sloane, Princeton, N. J. . . .	10.00
	16	Tompkins Ave. Cong'l Church, Brooklyn . .	7.50
	20	Prof. E. Y. Hincks, D.D., Andover	5.00
	20	Alexander Brown, Philadelphia	20.00
	23	Nathan Mosman, Auburndale	2.00
	24	Prof. E. H. Griffin, D. D., LL. D., Baltimore .	5.00
	25	Rev. Wm. Lawrence, Cambridge	15.00
	26	Dr. Wm. Goodell, Philadelphia	10.00
	28	Rev. Leroy S. Bean, Gorham, Me.	5.00
	30	Hon. Arthur T. Lyman, Boston	5.00

Received in March \$219.50

April	6	Rev. F. E. Clark, D. D., Auburndale	\$ 5.00
	7	Miss M. C. Burgess, Dedham	10.00
	14	Training School, Springfield (for expenses) .	15.00
	14	Hon. C. C. Burr, Auburndale	10.00
	20	Edwin Ginn, Winchester	10.00
	22	St. James Church, Philadelphia	50.00

	22	Grace Church, New York	. . . .	100 00
	23	Hon. Jonathan A. Lane, Boston	. . . .	10.00
	27	Hon. J. Halsey, Norwich, Conn.	. . . .	5.00
	28	St. Stephen's Church, Providence,	. . . .	10.00
	29	J. McAuslan, Providence, R. I.	. . . .	5.00
	30	Edward D. Bassett, Providence, R. I.	. . . .	10.00
		Received in April	. . . . .	<hr/>\$240.00
May	10	John H. Washburn, New York	. . . . \$	20.00
	11	Funk & Wagnalls, New York	. . . .	10.00
	11	Hon. Dorman B. Eaton, New York	. . . .	20.00
	12	Franklin Street Church, Manchester, N. H.	. . . .	25.00
	14	St. Paul's Church, Boston	. . . .	25.00
	16	Trinity Church, Boston	. . . .	100.00
	26	Gen'l S. C. Armstrong, LL.D., Hampton, Va.	. . . .	10.00
	26	Rev. James W. Bradin, Hartford, Conn.	. . . .	5.00
	31	H. O. Houghton, Cambridge	. . . .	15.00
		Received in May	. . . . .	<hr/>\$230.00
June	3	W. W. Lockwood, Detroit, Mich.	. . . . \$	10.00
	4	J. P. Bates, Brookline, Mass.	. . . .	10.00
	4	Rev. W. H. Cobb, D. D., Newton Centre	. . . .	5.00
	6	Hon. Joseph S. Ropes, Boston	. . . .	2.00
	24	Samuel D. Warren, Boston	. . . .	15.00
	28	J. N. Bacon, Newton	. . . .	10.00
	30	Rev. Reese F. Alsop, D. D., Brooklyn	. . . .	5.00
		Received in June	. . . . .	<hr/>\$57.00
July	12	Rev. Henry Fairbanks, Ph.D., St. Johnsbury, Vt.	. . . . \$	20.00
	15	George Knapp, Auburndale	. . . .	10.00
	18	Prof. Graham Taylor, D. D., Hartford, Conn.	. . . .	5.00
	21	Dr. C. A. Peabody, Worcester	. . . .	10.00
	22	A. A. Low, Brooklyn, N. Y.	. . . .	25.00
	25	Rev. Francis Goodwin, Hartford, Conn.	. . . .	20.00
		Received in July	. . . . .	<hr/>\$90.00
Aug.	3	James J. Goodwin, New York	. . . . \$	25.00
	6	Henry G. Marquand, New York	. . . .	20.00
	18	Rev. Joseph Cook, Ticonderoga, N. Y.	. . . .	5.00
	23	Joseph Lippitt, Providence	. . . .	5.00
	25	Phillips Church, South Boston	. . . .	3.00
	30	Rev. Daniel Merriman, D. D., Worcester	. . . .	50.00
	31	Isaac S. Dillingham, Auburndale	. . . .	5.00
		Received in August	. . . . .	<hr/>\$113.00
Sept.	13	John G. Cary, Roxbury	. . . . \$	5.00
	15	George Ripley, Andover	. . . .	10.00

19	Prof. F. G. Peabody, D. D., Cambridge	5.00
20	J. W. Danielson, Providence, R. I.	20.00
23	Samuel Johnson, Boston	10.00
26	Hon. E. H. Bennett, LL. D., Boston	10.00

Received in September \$60.00

Oct.	1	F. D. Allen, Boston	\$ 10.00
	8	Rev. J. H. Denison, D. D., Williamstown	10.00
	9	Congregational Church, North Adams	21.00
	10	Hon. James White, Williamstown	5.00
	11	Samuel A. Pratt, Worcester	25.00
	14	Morris K. Jesup, New York	5.00
	22	Pres. Franklin Carter, LL. D., Williamstown	5.00
	25	Rev. C. W. Huntington, Lowell	5.00
	31	Rev. F. N. Peloubet, D. D., Auburndale	5.00

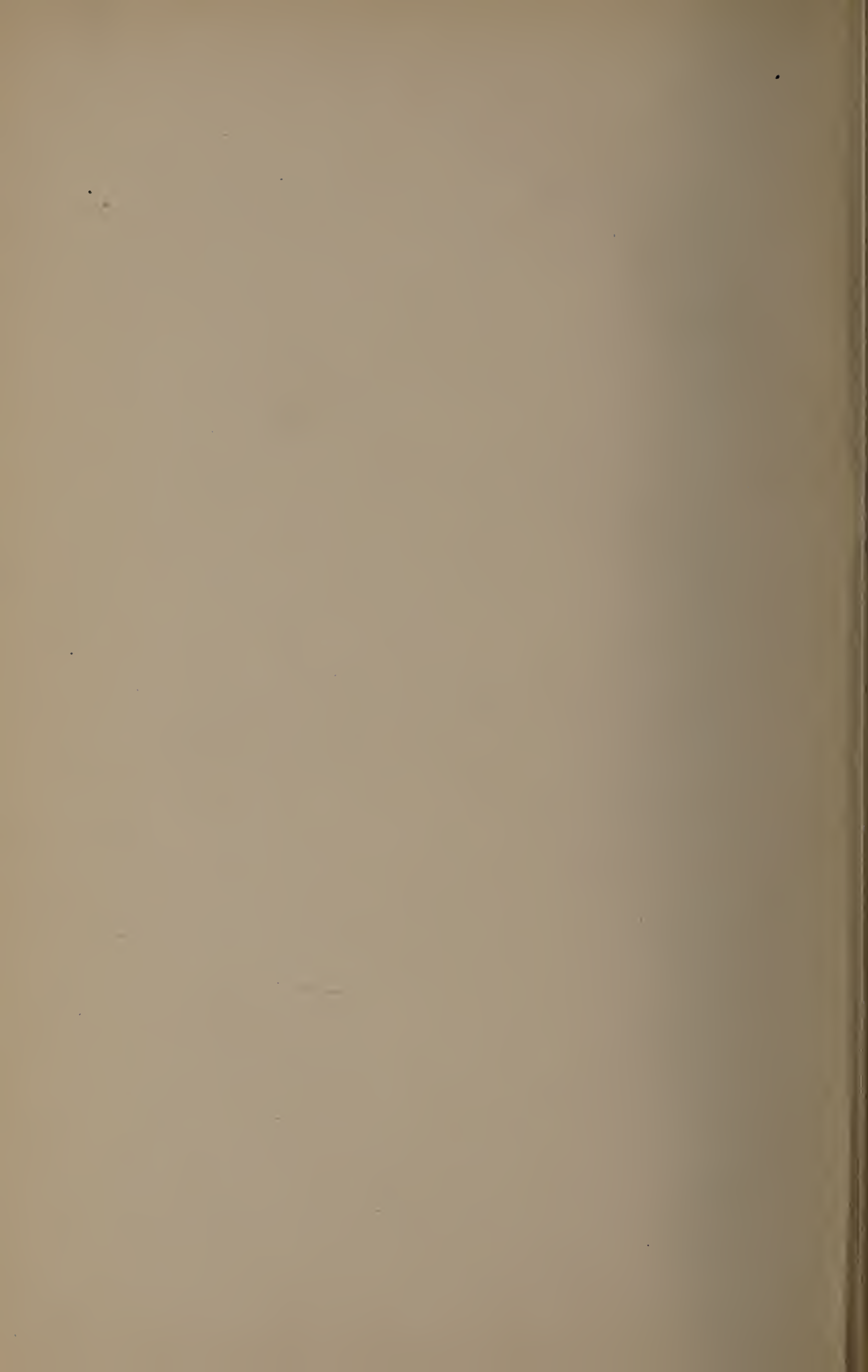
Received in October \$91.00

Nov.	1	Prof. Henry W. Farnham, New Haven, Conn.	\$ 15.00
	3	Rev. E. K. Alden, D. D., Boston	10.00
	3	Joseph H. Gray, Boston	5.00
	3	Rev. D. L. Furber, Newton Centre	2.00
	5	Shawmut Congregational Church, Boston	25.00
	15	Rev. F. J. Woodbury, D. D., Brooklyn, N. Y.	5.00
	17	Rev. E. A. Hoffman, D. D., New York	25.00
	17	Rev. D. Stuart Dodge, New York (additional)	10.00
	17	Mrs. Melissa P. Dodge, New York	10.00
	17	W. W. Frazier, Philadelphia	10.00
	17	Rev. H. C. Trumbull, D. D., Philadelphia	10.00
	20	Evangelical Alliance, Greenwich, Conn.	13.00
	21	Rev. Chas. Ray Palmer, D. D., Bridgeport, Conn.	25.00
	16	Grace Church, Brooklyn, N. Y.	25.00
	16	First Cong'l Church, Santa Barbara, Cal.	4.00
	29	Church of Holy Trinity, Philadelphia	25.00

Received in November \$219.00

Dec.	2	Prof. Simeon E. Baldwin, LL. D., New Haven, Conn.	\$50.00
	2	Hon. Joseph Story Fay, Boston	25.00
	2	Rev. Augustus Woodbury, D. D., Wellesley Hills	5.00
	2	Hon. Samuel B. Capen, Boston	10.00
	3	First Cong'l Church, Middletown, Conn.	10.00
	3	Hon. Henry C. Robinson, Hartford, Conn.	5.00
	3	John Nicholas Brown, Providence, R. I.	25.00
	4	Hon. Edward L. Pickard, Auburndale, Mass.	10.00
	5	Anson Stokes Phelps, New York	10.00
	5	Mrs. Maria Upham Drake, Boston	10.00
	5	Everett O. Fiske, Boston	5.00

5	W. B. Herrick, Natick	5.00
6	Rev. Morgan Dix, D. D., D. C. L., New York .	25.00
6	St. Luke's Church, Philadelphia	25.00
6	Mrs. Horace Fairbanks, St. Johnsbury, Vt. .	10.00
6	Rev. Calvin Cutler, Auburndale	3.00
6	St. John's Church, Providence, R. I.	25.00
7	All Saint's Church, Worcester	10.00
7	Mrs. Geo. H. Corliss, Providence, R. I. . . .	10.00
7	Asylum Hill Cong'l Church, Hartford, Conn. .	50.00
7	Rev. F. H. Johnson, Andover, Mass.	10.00
8	"A Vermont Lady "	25.00
8	John G. Cary, Roxbury	5.00
10	Hon. Lyman D. Brewster, Danbury, Conn. .	5.00
10	Hon. F. J. Kingsbury, Waterbury, Conn. . .	25.00
11	Rev. T. T. Munger, D. D., New Haven, Conn.	5.00
12	Joseph Porter, New Haven, Conn.	5.00
12	Charles E. Ranlett, Auburndale	5.00
15	Hon. Felix R. Brunot, Pittsburg, Pa.	25.00
19	Rev. Horace Dutton, Auburndale	5.00
19	C. S. Roberts, Auburndale	20.00
22	E. R. Brown, Dover, N. H.	5.00
23	First Cong'l Church, Hyde Park, Mass. . . .	10.00
28	Rev. C. H. Spalding, Cambridge	10.00
27	South Cong'l Church, New Britain, Conn. .	25.00
31	W. F. Whittemore, Boston	5.00
Received in December		<hr/> \$518.00



CONSTITUTION

OF THE

National Divorce Reform League.

ARTICLE I. This Association shall be called the NATIONAL DIVORCE REFORM LEAGUE.

ART. II. Its object shall be to promote an improvement in public sentiment and legislation in the institution of the Family, especially as affected by existing evils relating to Marriage and Divorce. It may coöperate with auxiliary or other bodies having similar aims in such ways as may be deemed expedient.

ART. III. It shall consist of the following persons, having power to fill vacancies and to add to their number.

ART. IV. The Officers of this Society shall be a President, not more than five Vice-Presidents, a Recording Secretary, a Corresponding Secretary, a Treasurer, and an Executive Committee of not more than twelve persons, of which Committee the Corresponding Secretary shall be a member, and of which not less than three shall constitute a quorum, having the duties indicated in their several offices; to be elected at the Annual Meeting, and to hold office until their successors are appointed.

ART. V. The LEAGUE shall hold its Annual Meeting on the first Wednesday in January, unless otherwise directed by the Executive Committee, and at such hour and place as shall be indicated in the call of the Committee.

ART. VI. Amendments of this Constitution, of which due notice shall have been given in the call of any Annual Meeting, may be adopted at such meeting by the vote of two-thirds of the members present.

ALL COMMUNICATIONS concerning the work of the LEAGUE and its general business should be addressed to the Corresponding Secretary, Rev. SAMUEL W. DIKE, LL. D., Auburndale, Mass.

CONTRIBUTIONS should be sent to the Treasurer, WILLIAM G. BENEDICT, Esq., 610 Atlantic Avenue, Boston.

FORM OF BEQUEST.

I hereby give and bequeath to the NATIONAL DIVORCE REFORM LEAGUE, a Corporation created by the laws of the State of Connecticut, or its successors or assigns, the sum of.....dollars, the principal [or income as may be desired] of which is to be used for the purposes for which said Corporation was chartered.

